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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ROSA L. DELAURO
3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
POLICY COMMITTEE

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EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

April 2, 2020

Mr. Pete T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Robert Kadlec, M.D., MTM&H, M.S.
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20201

Rear Admiral John Polowczyk
Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force Lead
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Gaynor, Assistant Secretary Kadlec, and Rear Admiral Polowczyk,

I write with grave concern about the state of the Strategic National Stockpile. During this pandemic, it is imperative that steps are taken immediately to increase the number of ventilators, N95 respirators, surgical masks, and other medical supplies available to the country.

My state of Connecticut's peak is forecasted to hit on April 15, less than two weeks from today, with a projected 43 COVID-19 related single-day deaths. The model created by the University of Washington sees Connecticut hitting 1,144 deaths on May 21, 2020, the first day with no projected daily COVID-19 deaths. Given the magnitude of the tragic loss of lives approaching Connecticut, we need ventilators and personal protective equipment immediately, so we can save lives. I do not consider the answer that help will not be coming anytime soon acceptable for my constituents and state.

As the Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, given the Congress appropriated more than \$16 billion to acquire equipment last week, it is unclear what is being done to replenish the Strategic National Stockpile and get medical supplies to states as quickly as possible. I am very troubled by reports that upwards of 80 percent of personal protective equipment that is imported into the country by FEMA from abroad is going into the private market. It is very apparent that the private market has failed our public health system, with states being forced to compete against one another for supplies.

By Tuesday, April 7, 2020, I request the answers to the following questions:

- 1) How can the \$16 billion Congress appropriated in the CARES Act be used to facilitate production of materials in light of the shortage of available products for acquisition?
- 2) If it cannot be used to facilitate production, please explain what are the legal barriers that preclude spending this funding on production.
- 3) Please provide a breakdown of the distribution of all PPE being imported by FEMA by sector and state.

Given Connecticut's impending peak of COVID-19, I reiterate that a response to these questions is requested not later than Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rosa L. DeLauro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rosa" being the most prominent.

Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies